service being used in the telecommunication network or to change the rate during a call to a value-added service provider.

WO 01/26353 A1 has disclosed a method for changing the taxation type of communication connections during a connection, in particular when using value-added services, in which a caller can select a value-added service by dialing an associated destination number and the destination number is intercepted in a network element of an intelligent network (IN) of the telecommunication network. In the intelligent network element, this destination number is converted into a special access number for the value-added service. This special access number is then used to establish a connection between the intelligent network element and the value-added service provider using the access number and is switched through to the caller. It is not possible to inform the caller about the rate for the connection or to determine charges in real time in the telecommunication network.

The object of the invention is to disclose a method that permits a determination of charges in real time for value-added services by means of a telecommunication network.

This object is attained according to the invention by the characterizing features of claim 1.

Advantageous embodiments and modifications of the invention are disclosed in the dependent claims.

The advantage of the invention lies in the fact that the network operator of the telecommunication network and possibly the caller himself is immediately informed of the applicable rate for the value-added service so that the network

operator can charge for the service in real time. This is particularly advantageous if the call is to be accounted for via a so-called prepaid subscriber relationship; in this case, the fee for the value-added service can be debited directly from the prepaid account.

The method described above also advantageously permits a rate change during a call to a value-added service provider.

An exemplary embodiment of the invention will be explained below in conjunction with Fig. 1. Fig. 1 describes the general steps for executing the method.

In this exemplary embodiment, it is assumed that a subscriber of a mobile telephone network wishes to use his mobile telephone terminal to access a value-added service in a public switched telephone network. A value-added

Claims

1. A method for determining charges in real time for value-added services in a telecommunication network, having an intelligent network structure, in which a caller selects a value-added service by dialing an associated destination number (0900 $x_1...x_9$), having the steps:
interception of the destination number (0900 $x_1...x_9$) in an intelligent network element of the telecommunication network and conversion of this destination number into a special access number (0121100 $x_1...x_9$) for the value-added service;
establishment of a connection between the intelligent network element and the value-added service provider through the use of the destination number;
characterized by means of the steps:
transmission of the applicable rate for the use of the requested value-added service from the value-added service provider to the intelligent network element in the form of a new destination number (01211 y_1y_2 $x_1...x_9$) for the requested value-added service, where the transmission of the new destination number occurs by means of a user-to-user datum (USR) in the release message;
evaluation of the new destination number in the intelligent network element; and
establishment of a connection between the caller and the value-added service with the new destination number (01211 y_1y_2 $x_1...x_9$) at the stated rate.

2. The method according to claim 1, characterized in that during the use of a value-added service, the value-added service provider can change the rate at any time by terminating the current connection and transmitting an new destination number (01211 z_1z_2 $x_1...x_9$) in the release message; using the

new destination number, a connection is established between the caller and the new telephone number that is charged at the new rate.

3. The method according to one of claims 1 or 2, characterized in that the value-added service is identified by a particular component ($x_1...x_9$) of the telephone number.

4. The method according to one of claims 1 through 3, characterized in that the rate is encoded by means of a particular component (y_1y_2; z_1z_2) of the destination number.

5. The method according to one of claims 1 through 4, characterized in that the new telephone number (01211 y_1y_2 $x_1...x_9$; 01211 z_1z_2 $x_1...x_9$) is entered into the billing record as the telephone number, which permits the accounting systems to allocate a rate.

6. The method according to one of claims 1 through 5, characterized in that price information that corresponds to the rate determined is sent to the caller's mobile telephone terminal.